

At Clue #6, stamp the green box below and return to the Admissions Desk for your reward!

- Clue 1 _____
- Clue 2 _____
- Clue 3 _____
- Clue 4 _____
- Clue 5 _____
- Clue 6 _____

Stamp this box using the stamp pad by Clue #6.

Try This!

Look for squirrel dreys, nests built high in the branches of trees. In the fall squirrels prepare for winter by thickening their dreys with extra layers of cozy bedding such as moss and dried leaves and twigs.



Autumn Quest

October 2017



A Sensational Exploration

Awaken your senses as you hike the Tree Trail. Orange, gold and crimson leaves adorn a variety of deciduous trees. Pokey pinecones scatter the forest floor. Squirrels scamper around in search of winter nesting materials including moss, bark and twigs. Acorns are being stored away by a variety of wildlife in preparation for the chilly season ahead. The scent of decomposing tree matter turning into rich soil floats through the air as nature prepares to take a long winter's nap. Come see, touch, smell and listen to the beloved signs of autumn.



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Pick up a map at the Admissions Desk in the Robins Visitors Center.

Autumn Quest

Hike down to the Tree Trail in the Children's Garden. At the first stop, you will encounter a variety of pinecones. Did you know pinecones hold the seeds of conifer trees? Each seed has a tiny "wing" that detaches from the scale where it was formed and blows away to a place where it might grow. Coniferous trees produce cones of all shapes and sizes. **Touch** the different types. Count the different varieties.

Record the number of pinecone varieties you count on the back of this sheet.

1



2



Walk down the trail until you arrive at a bin of assorted leaves. Did you know leaves are colored by molecules called pigments? Chlorophyll is the pigment that causes leaves to be green. Trees break down and absorb chlorophyll in the fall so they can use it again the following year. When this happens, we **see** the beautiful fall colors present in the leaves.

Note the colors you see on the back of this sheet.

3



Search for an arrangement of cedar tree "cookies" next. Cedar wood smells wonderful to us, but horrible to many insects. Cedar chips are often used to prevent moths from eating holes in our wool blankets and sweaters. Because cedar trees are resistant to many insects and diseases, they often live for hundreds of years. Try scratching a "cookie" with sand paper. Do you like the **smell**?

Describe the scent of a cedar tree "cookie" on the back of this sheet.

4



Next you will discover a presentation of hanging gourds which grow in many shapes and sizes. Pumpkins, watermelons and cucumbers are just three species of gourds. Some gourds have shells that become hard and durable when dried. They can be fashioned into bowls, scoops, ladles, birdhouses and even musical instruments. Try shaking one to **hear** the sound of the seeds rattling inside.

Suggest a song that could be sung to the beat of a gourd on the back of this sheet.

5



Troll to the next display where you will see a smorgasbord of nuts including hickory nuts and different types of acorns. Nuts are a valuable food resource for wildlife because they are easy to find and very nutritious. Forest nut production can predict how well some animal populations will do in a given year. Which nuts do you think **taste** best to wildlife?

Write animals that eat nuts on the back of this sheet.

6



When you reach the paved walkway at the end of the Tree Trail, turn left and walk to the Carriage House Breezeway. A cornucopia of natural materials await you there. Use a combination of your senses to explore the various textures and colors. Look, touch, smell and listen, if you can, to the items on the table.

Which items are familiar to you? Which are new discoveries? Is there one that is your favorite?

Jot down which item is your favorite on the back of this sheet.